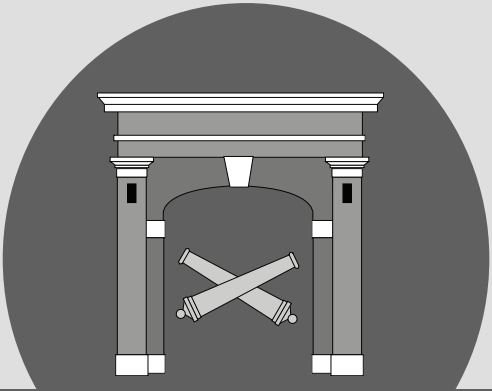




Fort Point National Historic Site  
P.O. Box 29333  
Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129-0333

[www.nps.gov/goga/education](http://www.nps.gov/goga/education)




# ARTILLERY, BRICKS, & CO.

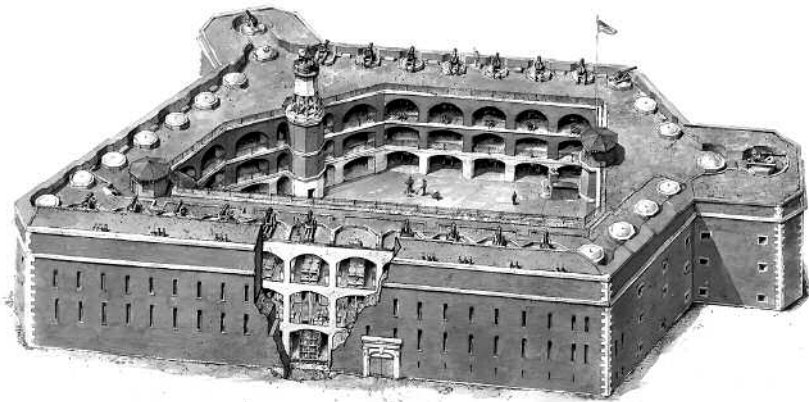
FORT POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Golden Gate National Parks



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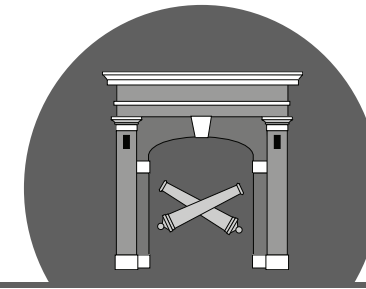


## Fort Point: Still Standing Watch

Gold was discovered in California in 1848. People came from all over the world, hoping to make their fortunes by mining for gold. Many of these people made their homes in the towns surrounding San Francisco Bay. These areas became very important places for trade and commerce. The United States Army built Fort Point in the 1850s to protect these towns from enemy ships.

Fort Point is the only seacoast fort of its kind on the West Coast. The massive fort is made of brick and granite. It has only one entrance - the sally port, guarded by two sets of iron-studded double doors and rifle slits along either side. Inside the fort are walls about seven feet thick. Fort Point could hold 550 soldiers and 126 cannon.

A community of people also lived or worked inside or near the fort - soldiers, laundresses, storekeepers, engineers, hospital nurses, brick makers, and families of the soldiers. The soldiers were ready in case of attack, but no enemy ever came. Fort Point looks very much like it did when it was completed during the Civil War in the 1860s. In 1970, Fort Point became a National Historic Site. Come inside and make the fort's history come alive!



**ARTILLERY, BRICKS, & CO.**  
FORT POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**Golden Gate National Parks**

The Golden Gate National Parks serve as one of the nation's largest and most inspiring outdoor classrooms. From fragile indigenous habitats to historic landmarks, ancient redwood groves to dramatic coastal preserve, the park's value as an urban educational resource is unsurpassed. Deeply committed to young people, National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy staff partner with educators to design inquiry-based learning linked to school curriculum and education standards.

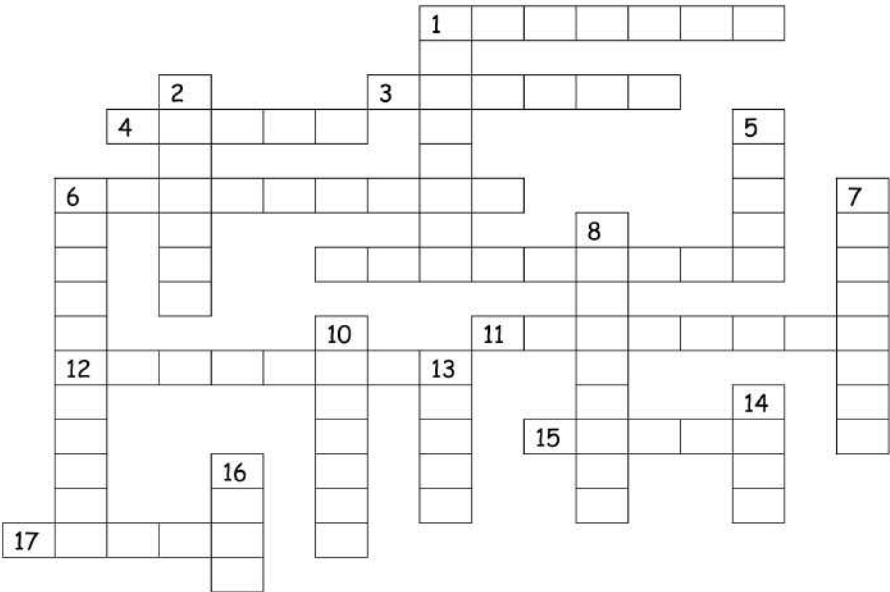
Crissy Field Center, located on the Presidio of San Francisco, is a partnership project of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service. The Center affirms and strengthens the NPS's commitment to quality K-through-12 education. The Center offers multicultural programs that actively engage us with our environments and promote collaborations in building a more sustainable and environmentally just society.

[www.nps.gov/goga/education](http://www.nps.gov/goga/education)

[www.crissyfield.org](http://www.crissyfield.org)



Fort Point Crossword Puzzle



Vocabulary Words

Bond	Garrison Gin	Meat Hash	Sally Port
Brass	Gold Rush	Mess	Stewards
Brick	Gorge	Private	Straw
Cannon	Granite	Quarters	Union
Casemates	Gunpowder	Quinine	

Across

- 1. Used to treat fevers
- 3. Large, iron weapon
- 4. Made of clay, water and sand
- 6. Used to fire cannon
- 9. Bombproof rooms for cannon
- 11. Event in California which lead to the construction of Fort Point
- 12. Hospital workers
- 15. Land facing side of the fort
- 17. Northern states during the Civil War

Down

- 1. Soldier's bedroom
- 2. Strong, heavy rock
- 5. Shiny material used to decorate the uniform
- 6. Large, triangular pulley used to lift cannon
- 7. Breakfast food for soldiers
- 8. Entrance to a fort
- 10. Lowest ranking soldier
- 13. Material used to fill mattresses
- 14. Military word for the dining area
- 16. Patterns of bricks

1

Discussion

Location: outside in front of the fort

During your visit to Fort Point, you will be asked to think about the design of the fort. Even before you look inside, you may have ideas about how to design a fort. One of the first things building designers think about is why people need the building they are creating. Can you name 3 reasons people build forts?

2

Activity

Location: outside in front of the fort

Another thing that building designers must think about is how people will use their building. What do people do in a fort? What types of rooms and spaces does a fort need?

Activities in a fort:

Rooms and spaces in a fort:

3

## Activity

*Location: outside in front of the fort*

Take a careful look at the outside of the fort. Look at all the different shapes of windows. In the space below draw each window shape.

Each window shape has a different function. Can you use your ideas about forts to label each window shape with one of the functions below?

Window for bedroom

Rifle slit (window that soldiers would shoot their gun through)

Cannon window

**It's now time to enter the fort and have a look around.**

When you get into the fort, take a look at the windows from the inside. Did you label the windows correctly?

**Please find one of the staircases and carefully climb up to the very top level.**

18

## Activity

*Location: first level*

Your visit to Fort Point is almost over but before you leave it is important to think about what it was like for the people who lived and worked in Fort Point. Close your eyes while your group leader reads the paragraph below.

"Image that you are in Fort Point in the year 1865 - over 100 years ago! What time of day or night is it? What are you wearing? What colors do you see? Are you alone or are other people there with you? What are you doing? What are the people around you doing? What can you hear? Imagine that someone is practicing shooting a cannon. The "boom" from the cannon runs through your body like thunder. What do you smell? Are the smells pleasant or unpleasant? How does this place make you feel? Open your eyes now."

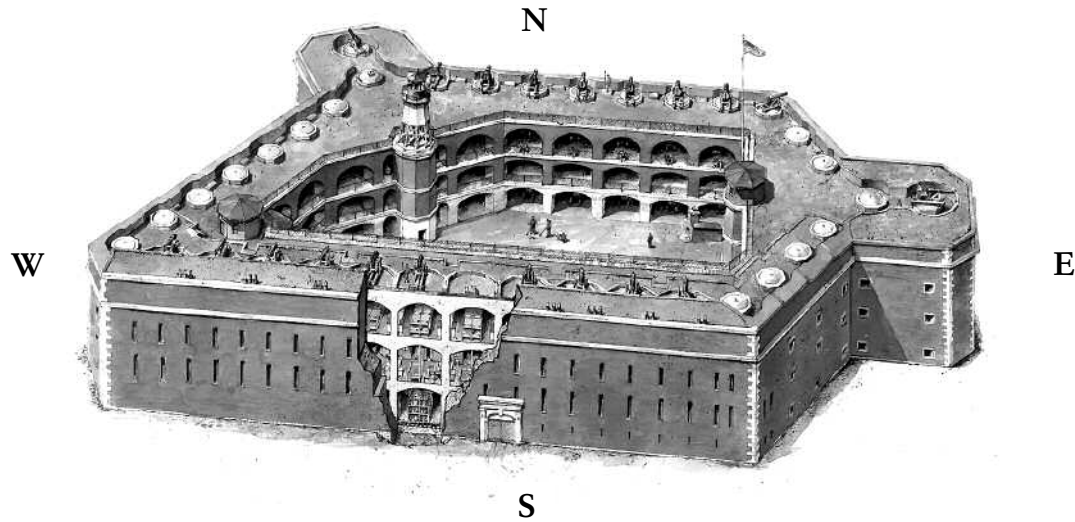
Think back on your visit to Fort Point today. What one thing surprised you the most? What do you think you will remember after you leave here?

Thank you for visiting.

## 17 Discussion

*Location: first level*

You have explored all four levels of Fort Point and learned a lot about the fort. You have learned how building designers create rooms and spaces for different activities.

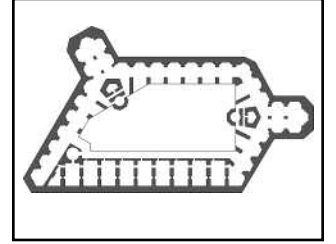
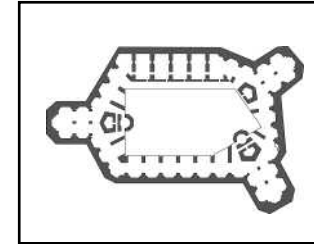
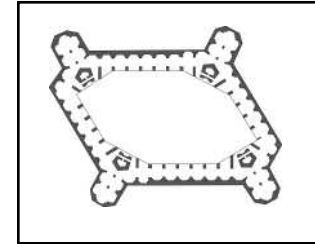


Look back at the list of rooms and spaces you created in Activity 2 of this booklet. What things would you add to your fort? What things would you change? What things did you include in your fort that should have been included in Fort Point but weren't?

## 4 Activity

*Location: top level*

Take a look around. Notice the shape of the fort. Circle the shape that looks the most like the shape of Fort Point.



Why would the engineers who designed the fort decide on this unusual shape?

## 5 Discovery

*Location: top level*

How many circular cement structures are on this level of the fort?

Can you guess the original purpose of these structures?

6

## Discussion

*Location: southwest side of the top level*

Notice the cement block here. How is it different from the other cement structures? This block was part of something that used to be here. Look around inside and outside the fort for clues to help you guess what was here.

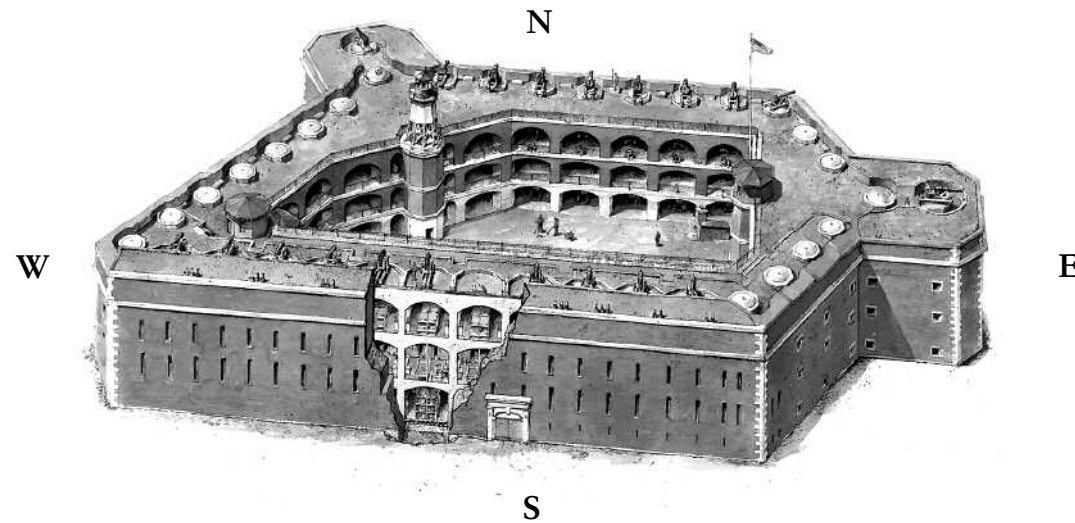
Can you guess the original purpose of the cement block?

7

## Discovery

*Location: top level*

Take a look at the drawing below. This is a map of the top level of the fort.



Draw lines connecting the spaces with the list of words:

Lighthouse  
Bridge to Lighthouse Keepers' Houses

Cannon Mounts  
Stairwell

**It is now time to walk down the cast iron southeast stairs to the level below. Be careful!**

15

## Discussion

*Location: Sally Port*

This is the entrance to the fort. Notice the two sets of doors. Name at least 4 characteristics of these doors that make them different from the doors at your school. What purposes do you think these characteristics serve?

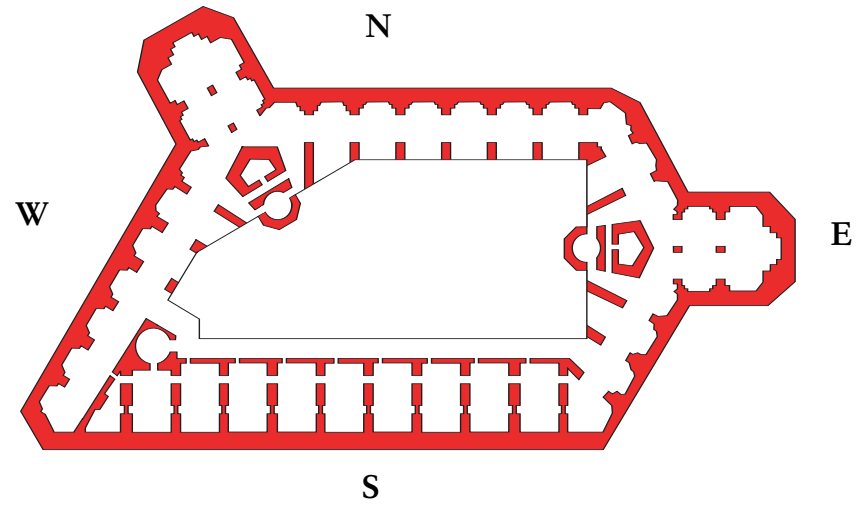
16

## Discovery

*Location: first level*

Take a look at the drawing below. This is a map of the first level of the fort.

Draw lines connecting the spaces with the list of words: (You'll need to explore some of the rooms you haven't seen yet!)



Gunpowder Magazine  
Sally Port  
Parade Ground

Casemates  
Guard Room

## 12 Activity

*Location: second level*

Compare the map of the second level of Fort Point with the fort you designed at the beginning of this program. What spaces did you include in your fort that are also here on the second level of Fort Point? List them below:

---

---

---

---

It is now time to walk down the stairs to the first level.

## 13 Discussion

*Location: southwest end of the first level*

Look carefully at the granite staircase. Can you see any evidence that the stairs are supported from beneath? What supports the staircase?

## 14 Discovery

*Location: the Powder Magazine on the southwest side of the first level*

Explosives that were used for cannon balls were stored in this room. What are 3 special characteristics of this room that made it safer to store gunpowder?

Soldiers were not allowed to wear their shoes while in this room. Can you guess why they had to take off their shoes?

## 8 Discussion

*Location: southwest end of the third level*

Peek inside the enclosed room on this side of the building. This is the most secret place in the fort. Would you want to go in there?

Notice what the room looks like. Are there doors? How many? Are there windows? Is it dark or light?

Can you guess what this room was used for?

## 9 Discovery

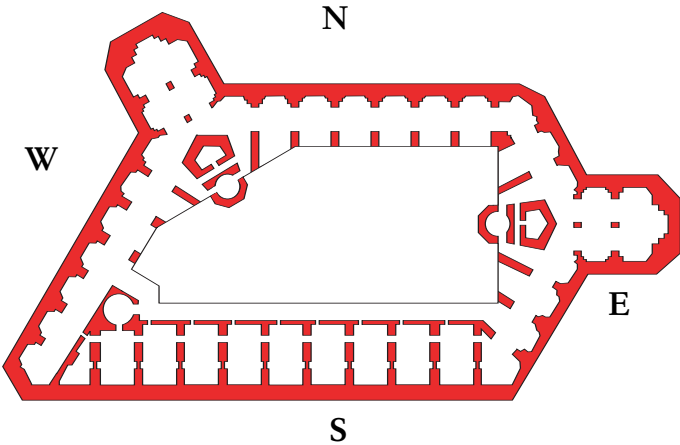
*Location: third level*

Take a look at the drawing below. This is a map of the third level of the fort.

Draw lines connecting the spaces with the list of words: (You'll need to explore some of the rooms you haven't seen yet!)

- Casemates
- Stairwell
- Sleeping Quarters for Soldiers
- Detention Barracks (Jail)

End your discovery in the sleeping quarters. Look for the exhibition case with hats and swords. The wooden box for your next activity will be nearby.



## 10 Activity

*Location: Sleeping Quarters*

Building a fort with bricks takes a lot of planning and skill. The bricks must be laid so the fort will be very strong.

Find the wooden box and take out the bricks. Work with your group to lay the bricks in a pattern that could be used to build a very strong wall.

Draw your brick pattern here:

Now examine the walls of the fort. How many different brick patterns can you see? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any of your patterns look like ones the builders created?

What skills do you need to know when building with bricks?

## Activity

*Location: Sleeping Quarters*

Fort Point and many other forts use arches in their designs. Look around now to see if you can spot any arches.

Now take out the building pieces for the arch. Work with your group to build your own arch.

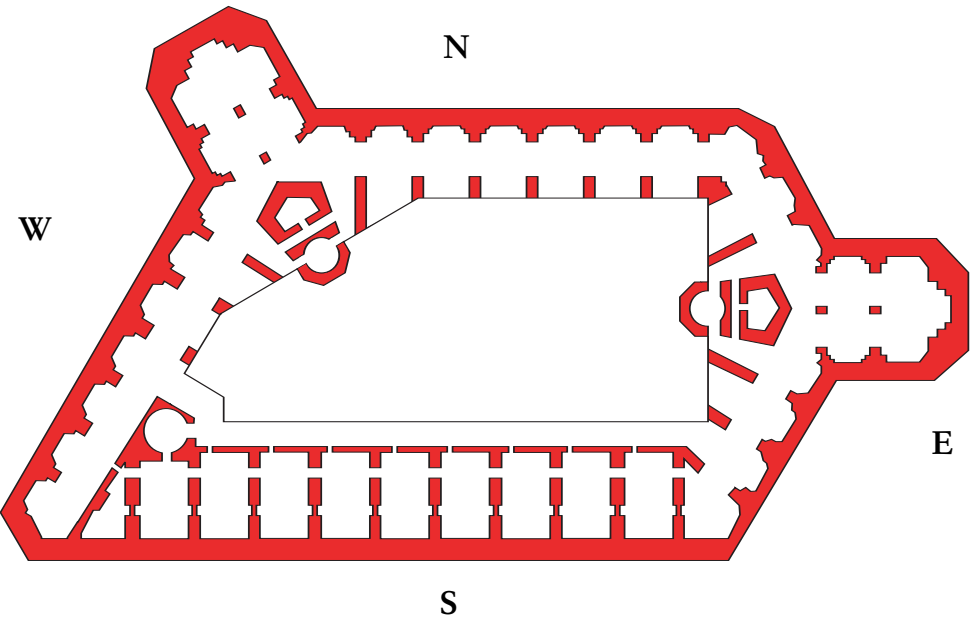
Why do designers and builders use arches in their buildings?

Please put your arch and bricks back inside the wooden box. It is now time to walk down the stairs to the second level. Don't Run!

## 11 Discovery

*Location: second level*

Take a look at the drawing below. This is a map of the second level of the fort.



Draw lines connecting the spaces with the list of words: (You'll need to explore some of the rooms you haven't seen yet!)

Officers' Quarters  
Mess Hall

Hospital  
Casemates